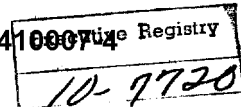


DD/S-58-5861



OCT 7 1958

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Discussion of Operation Alert 1958 Scheduled for Cabinet Meeting on 10 October 1958.

1. This memorandum contains information prepared for your use in connection with a discussion of Operation Alert 1958 scheduled for the Cabinet meeting on 10 October 1958.

2. Operation Alert 1958 consisted of three phases. Phase I was a simulated air attack and a nation-wide air raid drill which took place on 7 May 1958. There was no over-all public participation in this phase in the Washington area and our Agency participated only on a token basis.

3. Phase II, which took place during the period 16-18 July 1958, was the Relocation Phase. This Agency participated, as it has done in the past, pursuant to special arrangements with the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. A total of employees participated at the relocation site, including those normally stationed there. At the conclusion of Phase II a report was rendered the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, a copy of which is attached hereto as Tab 1. We reported that Operation Alert 1958 was of value to us as a training mechanism, in that it gave added emphasis to the continuing familiarization and training program which we carry on to insure a state of constant readiness on the part of our emergency relocation force. We reported, moreover, that our organization and our relocation site and its facilities have attained a high degree of operational capability. We stated our belief that complete understanding should be achieved now between the Federal Government at large and state and local authorities throughout the country for the guidance of all departments and agencies in their dealings with local authorities in the vicinity of their respective relocation sites.

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4. Phase III, the final phase of Operation Alert 1958, consisted of an assemblage at High Point during the period 17-19 September 1958 of a Seminar Group made up of representatives of 10 different departments and agencies of the Executive Branch. They were charged with the responsibility for preparing a report and recommendations to the President and Cabinet based on their analysis of the results of the first two phases of Operation Alert 1958. We were not required to participate in this phase of the exercise. Their report,

entitled "Phase III, Operation Alert 1958: Report of Roundtable Discussion and Seminar Group Reports," dated 18 September 1958, is attached hereto as Tab 2 (Copy No. 228).

5. The report is divided into seven major subdivisions, only one of which (the one entitled "Operational Readiness" (Page 6)) is in part of considerable interest to us. This section raises the question of changing the basic concept of relocation from the present one, pursuant to which the departments and agencies have established their sites within the Federal relocation arc, to one in which all present sites would be abandoned and supplanted by a central site which would consist of the reconstituted seat of government, complete with representation from all existing departments and agencies, supplemented, perhaps, by additional sites nearby containing groupings of agencies based upon inter-related functions. It is anticipated that considerable of the discussion at the Cabinet meeting will center on this point. It is further anticipated that, although Governor Leo A. Hoegh, Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, will be the active proponent of this changed concept of relocation, many other persons present will oppose it. Our feeling on this point favors the present concept, in view of the fact that we, and most of the other agencies concerned, have established working relocation sites throughout the arc, and the dispersed character of these sites prevents any one site from being an attractive target of enemy action. We feel that the suggested new concept would not enjoy this advantage, and would, in addition, disrupt the established pattern of relocation without offering any compensating factors.

L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

Attachments:
Tabs 1 and 2

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